

Appendix H: Vessel Captain, Crew and Observer Responsibilities

A sea turtle interaction generates a variety of actions from the moment a sea turtle is spotted within the gear until the animal is released back into the water. This Appendix outlines who is responsible for each of these actions.

Captain and Crew Responsibilities

Captains and crews responsibilities are to adhere to the Careful Release Protocols, Appendix F for all sea turtle interactions, whether the animal is brought on board or remains in the water.

Observer Responsibilities

Assist the captain and crew with mouth opening and dehooking activities, as needed, adhering to the Careful Release Protocols, Appendix F.

I. Turtles Not Boated

The observer is responsible for identifying the species and recording all capture and biological data on the Sea Turtle Life History Form, as well as preserving and storing the biopsy sample. Biopsy samples collected by the crew should only be collected under the supervision of the observer.

II. Turtles Boated

The observer is responsible for collecting and recording the biological data (measuring, tagging, etc) on the sea turtles boated. Crew assistance may be requested to complete these tasks. The observer must have copies of all necessary permits authorizing collection of samples, tagging, etc. On certain trips, such as the NED experiment, the observer also may be responsible for sending daily e-mails to turtle coordinator, relaying data on effort and protected species interactions.